REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-32 currently are pending. Claim 1 currently has been amended.

The examiner stated that the reference Kuepper et al. needs Journal, volume and page information. For the Kuepper et al. reference the information should read:

> Kuepper et al., "Expression of the DNA-Binding Domain of Human Poly(ADP-Ribose) Polymerase as a Trans-Dominant Inhibitor of Poly(ADP-Ribosyl)ation in Transfected Eucaryotic Cell Lines", 1992, Poirier and Moreau, eds., Springer, New York, p. 38-46.

The examiner stated that claim 1 remains objected to because claim 1 continues to contain non-elected subject matter (i.e. SEQ ID NO: 4, 6, 8 and 10). Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 2 and 3 remain rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants believe the examiner has erred because claims 2 and 3 depend on claim 1, i.e., they have a narrower scope. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are not indefinite in view of the examiner's determination that claim 1 is not indefinite.

Claims 2 and 3 remain rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶1, written description and enablement. The examiner believes 85% homology of the specified SEQ ID NOs is not supported by the specification.

Applicants point the examiner to homology data found in the tables on pages 19 and 20 of the instant specification. One of ordinary skill in the art would see that PARP2/PARP3 if compared to PARP1 or PARP3, if compared to PARP2 have even less pronounced sequence identities. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art, starting from the specific sequence of PARP2 will be enabled (guided by the bulk of the sequence information disclosed in the instant specification as well as the additional general teaching, see for example p. 19, ¶2 to provide functional equivalents with homologies of at least 85% as claimed. Furthermore, applicants submit herein the following amino acid homology data for further

sequence pairs of the present invention (program: vector NTI 7.0, InforMax Inc.):

	Percent Identity
hPARP2/mPARP3	30.8% (551)[1]
hPARP3/mPARP3	80.1% (534)

[1] numbers in parentheses indicate the number of overlapping amino acids.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thibodeau et al. (Biochem. Cell Biol, Vol 67, pages 653-660, 1989).

Applicants point out that claim 1 has been found to be novel. Therefore, applicants believe claims 2 and 3 which are narrower dependent claims should be novel as well. Claims 2 and 3 provide more specific sequence information.

Applicants herein request a **3 month** extension of time.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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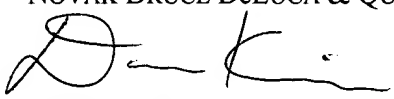

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